

WHY DO SO MANY TEACHERS LIKE USING NEWSPAPERS?

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The use of the mass media as a teaching instrument in the classroom has increased considerably at all grade levels in the past few years. The newspapers are regarded one of the most reliable, easily available, less expensive and effective sources of sharing information and knowledge. They offer us a wide range of knowledge and in-depth analysis of incidents and events. Reading newspapers on regular basis is considered a good habit. By reading newspapers, the students can gather information on varied subjects including social, political and business issues, sports, entertainment, art, culture, music, education etc. They can also be encouraged to improve their vocabulary, grammar and thinking skills.

Why do so many teachers like using newspapers? Well, to start with, newspapers are much more current than course books. There is also a lot of information in newspapers, which make them an excellent springboard for lessons. Newspapers expand the curriculum with an unlimited amount of information to use as background for learning activities. The English newspapers provide various materials for students to broaden their knowledge. Through reading, one can come across with foreign cultures, foreigners' value of life, and ways of thinking, belief and behavior. [1, c.207].

News develops every day. The beauty of the newspaper in the classroom is that it is also fresh each day. It comes to you with the latest news and information and, unlike other media, comes beautifully written with lots of detail. There is truly no better record of the world's happenings than a newspaper. For teachers the newspaper offers a special attraction. It has been called the living textbook and it lives up to that name. The newspaper can be used to enhance skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, math, social studies and science. Critical thinking is the natural outgrowth of using a newspaper to learn. Unlike textbooks,

which are several years outdated by the time they get into students' hands, the newspaper comes alive with information. The newspaper expands the curriculum with an unlimited amount of information to use as background for learning activities.

Reading is a great way of acquiring language. If you can get your learners to dip into English newspapers then their reading skills, writing skills and vocabulary will improve. English language students discover a completely new world through newspapers, new words, new phrases, new ideas and even new faces! They may have read the news in their own language but reading it in English is so much more exciting and puts the English language in to context for them. Students love being able to understand and read current news in English and there is something to interest everyone in a newspaper [2, c.53].

Following measures can be applied as to develop habit of reading English newspapers among the students:

- Ask the students to select the most interesting part of the newspaper that appeals them. They can read it and report to other classmates.
- Encourage the students to read outside class as much as possible.
- Talk about reading and comprehension of English texts with your learners as well, and share strategies that they can use when reading.
- Encourage the students to keep and refer an authentic dictionary while reading the newspaper.
- Try to encourage the students to comprehend the article a whole. They should be made enable to have their focus on getting a complete picture rather than being stuck with the parts that they do not understand at ease.
- Encourage the students to pen down the information that is relevant and useful for them, as it will enable them to develop writing notes, essays, paragraphs, summary etc.

So, the English Newspapers can be used as an efficacious teaching tool to improve the language skills of the students. The use of English Newspapers will certainly encourage, motivate the students, and help them to sharpen their LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) skills. Newspapers are a powerful source of sharing information and enriching knowledge bank. Through reading of English newspapers, students discover life as it happens. Using the Newspaper in your Classroom Learning from the real world has magnetic appeal for students; it improves student vocabulary skills, increases knowledge and encourages a positive attitude toward learning.

Reference:

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2. Hamrick, L. Newspaper in education activity book. / L. Hamrick – Washington D.C.: Clearinghouse, 1981. – 60 p.